



Stephen H. Johnson, Acting Director

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Are your friends signed up for OED's monthly newsletter and our *Daily Digest*? Compiled daily from over 50 news sources, the OED *Daily Digest* is the best way to keep up with the latest in business, technology, workforce, real estate, and economic development news in Seattle.

NEWS & INFORMATION

Partner with the Office of Economic Development to deliver business services in Seattle



The City of Seattle's Office of Economic Development is currently seeking partners with strong industry expertise and the capacity to support the retention and growth of Seattle businesses in targeted sectors. The ultimate goal of this solicitation is to create new and innovative partnerships that integrate the business retention, expansion, and attraction services of our economic development partners with OED's direct services. These new partnerships will allow us to better leverage the capabilities and resources of our economic development partners. Proposals are due by 5:00 p.m. on **Friday, March 5th, 2010**. For more information, contact OED at oad@seattle.gov.

- [Visit OED's Business Services RFQ page](#)
- [Download the complete Request for Qualifications \(PDF\)](#)

OED convenes Seattle leadership to advocate for retaining NOAA



Seattle's elected leadership, with support from the maritime industry and neighborhood leaders, forwarded a proposal this month to the Department of Commerce to retain NOAA's Marine Operations Center-Pacific in Seattle. In a letter sent on February 12th to U.S. Commerce Secretary Gary Locke and Under Secretary Jane Lubchenco, Mayor Mike McGinn and the Seattle City Council argue that consolidating NOAA's operations in Seattle at existing federal facilities is the best



option for NOAA and the best deal for federal taxpayers. The proposal is the latest effort in a years-long program, led by the city, to retain the marine center in Seattle, where it has made its home for more than 50 years. Roque Deherrera, the Office of Economic Development's Business Services Manager, has served as the lead city coordinator for this interdepartmental effort.

- [Read the Mayor's news release](#)
- [Download the full letter to Commerce Secretary Locke](#) (PDF)

Advocacy team announced at City Business Casual



More than forty-five members of the local business community attended the second monthly City Business Casual event last week in downtown Seattle. Attendees were joined by several high profile Seattle city leaders, including Deputy Mayor for Community Darryl Smith, City Councilmember Sally Clark, and City Attorney Peter Holmes. The February event marked the soft debut of a newly formalized city-wide Business Advocacy Team, an interdepartmental coalition of City of Seattle employees who regularly work together to assist businesses. Keep an eye on the Office of Economic Development's [website](#) in the next two months for the debut of the team's dynamic new web presence, which will continue to streamline local businesses' interactions with the city. In the meantime, thank you to everyone who attended - and mark your calendars for next month's event on March 25th!

- [Learn more about City Business Casual](#)

Economic recovery, business investment top 2010 City Council priorities



Economic recovery measures, including increased business financing and neighborhood business district revitalization, topped Seattle City Council's priorities for 2010, which were announced officially last week in a full Council session at City Hall. In his introduction to the priorities, City Council President Richard Conlin emphasized the Council's commitment to work on transportation choices, smart land use and development, clean energy, and education in the coming year. The Council also announced a goal of carbon neutrality for the city of Seattle by 2030. "Residents need to know what specific initiatives we plan to work on and what the Council should be held accountable for accomplishing," Conlin said.

- [Read more about the 2010 City Council priorities](#)
- [Watch the priorities announcement on Seattle Channel](#)
- [Learn about OED's business financing programs](#)

New report examines economic health of downtown



The Downtown Seattle Association issued its 2010 State of Downtown Economic Report this month at the annual State of Downtown Economic Forum, co-presented by the Office of Economic Development. The report includes the latest information on the economic health of Downtown, including data on housing, office markets, retail, business sectors, conventions and tourism, as well as cultural arts, sports and entertainment. Though the report confirms the city's current economic difficulties, it also touches upon some economic positives: that there has been less than 1% change in the number of occupied street-level businesses between 2008 and 2009, and that an estimated \$1.4 billion in development projects were completed in 2009, with another \$1.9 billion currently under construction.

- [Download the 2010 State of Downtown Economic Report](#) (PDF)
- [Learn more about the Downtown Seattle Association](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Mayoral initiative invites input on youth and families - March 1st - 22nd



Mayor Mike McGinn's Youth and Families Initiative officially launched this month with a workshop in the Rainier Valley attended by over 220 community members. The initiative, which is focused on the future of education, child care, children's health, and the criminal justice system in Seattle, emphasizes active participation and collection of feedback through a series of large group workshops and nearly 100 small community caucuses, all of which are open to the public. To accomplish the initiative's ambitious goal of changing the dialogue around youth and families in Seattle, McGinn has enlisted former Seattle Mayor Norm Rice, former Deputy Mayor Bob Watt, and El Centro de la Raza Executive Director Estela Ortega as co-chairs of the effort.

- [Visit the Youth and Families Initiative website](#)
 - [View the schedule of upcoming workshops](#)
 - [Leave your feedback on youth and families online](#)
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Watch Lynn Shelton's \$5 Cover: Seattle - March 1st



Join the *\$5 Cover: Seattle* cast and crew at SIFF Cinema on March 1st for a screening of all episodes of the locally filmed series, along with a few B-sides and mini-documentaries. "What local director Lynn Shelton's done with '\$5 Cover,' her upcoming webisodic series about Seattle music made for MTV.com, is elevate barely-known starving artists to hero status, augmenting reality like a telescope to a star," says Andrew Matson of the *Seattle Times*. SIFF will be selling a handful of tickets to this cast, crew, guest and press screening. Office of Film + Music director James Keblas will introduce director Lynn Shelton at the screening, which will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will be followed by a special *\$5 Cover* show at the Tractor Tavern at 9:00 p.m.

- [Read Andrew Matson's Seattle Times feature](#)
- [Learn more about film and music in Seattle](#)

Upcoming forum unites public agencies with prospective contractors - March 30th



The Puget Sound region's largest public agencies will be hosting the 8th Annual Regional Contracting Forum on March 30th at the Washington State Convention Center in downtown Seattle. Each year, more than 1,000 people attend this annual networking and information-gathering event. This year the Forum will include one-on-one interactive sessions between prime and subcontractors for construction and architectural and engineering services, and agency buyers and vendors. The Forum also serves as a "one-stop" location for business owners seeking to do business with government agencies to ask questions that will help them navigate the public competitive bidding process successfully.

- [Register to attend the forum](#)
- [Learn about selling services to the City of Seattle](#)



Send submissions, questions, or comments to oed@seattle.gov.